

The Village Inn
Englishtown, Monmouth County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-65

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Village Inn
Englishtown, Monmouth County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. James Applegate

Date of Erection: 1732

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - shingles over
original siding

Interior walls - plaster

Floor - wood

Roof - slate over original
shingles

Historical Data:

Part of the time between June 27 and July 1, 1778 Washington used the tavern as his headquarters. After the Battle of Monmouth, General Lee went to this tavern and wrote two letters to George Washington; these letters had as much to do with his court martial as did his conduct on the battlefield.

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In the northwest room of the original section of the building, now part of the dining room, Washington wrote the charges against Lee and the order notifying him that he was under arrest; the verdict of the trial resulting from these charges ended with the disbarment of Lee from any commandment in the United States Army.

The Inn was the birthplace of General David Forman, Commander of the New Jersey Troops at Germantown, Judge of the County Court, and member of the Council of State.

Bibliography:

Holmes, Frank R. History of Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1664-1920 3 Volumes New York and Chicago, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1922

Historic Roadsides in New Jersey
The Society Colonial Wars in the State of New Jersey, 1928

Walter E. Pratt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

Rev. Aug. 25 '36 T.H.

Addendum to:
Village Inn (Robert Newell House)
Main and Water Streets, northwest corner
Englishtown
Monmouth County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-65

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Addendum to
VILLAGE INN
(Robert Newell House)

HABS No. NJ-65

Location: Main and Water Streets, northwest corner
Englishtown, Mommouth County, New Jersey

USGS QUADRANGLE: Freehold

Present Owner: Battleground Historical Society
Tennent, New Jersey 07763

Present Occupant: Unoccupied

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Village Inn has been prominent in local tradition as the place where George Washington stayed during the Battle of Mommouth, June 27-30, 1778, and where he wrote the orders for the court-martial of General Charles Lee. Research conducted in conjunction with the Historic Structures Report prepared in 1982 disclosed no documentary evidence to support this legend, nor any to contradict it. The absence of references to the legend in secondary sources until the early twentieth century suggests that it is of twentieth century origin.

The inn is significant in itself as an additive structure reflecting various building traditions and styles from the eighteenth through the early twentieth centuries. Of particular note are the Dutch framing techniques which were employed in the pre-1750, two-room core of the building and in the circa 1750-1760 expansion and the nineteenth century expansion which gave the building a center-hall plan as part of a more formal, balanced room arrangement. The nineteenth century expansion also attempted as much formal symmetry on the facade as was possible without making major structural changes in the earlier sections.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Dates of Erection:

Stage 1 c1726-1732

- Source: Accumulated data consisting of
- + Local tradition
 - + 1726 Deed, Wm. Clark & Rachael h/w, miller, Monmouth County to Robert Newell, taylor, encompassing the property on which the building is located, reconfirmed 2 March 1733/34
 - + Interconnection of property purchased by Newell with properties of the founders of the new Presbyterian Church on White Hill
 - + 1730 construction of the new Presbyterian Church (Symmes)
 - + Newell's membership and activity with the new church including purchase of pew #18 (Symmes)
 - + Newell's trade as a taylor (tailor) confirmed by 1978 & 1982 archaeology finds.
 - + Results of detailed architectural investigation, analysis and comparison with local precedent

Stage 2 c1750-1760

- Source: Accumulated data consisting of
- + 11 August 1749 Deed, Robert Newell, yoeman, to Thomas Davis, yoeman, late of Middletown
 - + Size of Davis family verses size of Stage 1
 - + Thomas Davis subscription to the fund for building the new Church on White Hill, and the appointment of his son as chief carpenter for that Church, 11 August 1750
 - + Thomas Davis' and John's membership in the Church and importance to the community as illustrated by assignment of pew #1
 - + T. Davis children all left home by early 1760s and house and property deeded to son Moses, 27 January 1762
 - + 1766 T. Davis wrote will dividing up rest of his land to all heirs except Moses
 - + 1766-67 tavern account book of Moses Davis
 - + Moses Davis trades as tailor and tavern keeper confirmed by 1978 & 1982 archaeology
 - + Results of detailed architectural investigation, analysis and comparison with local precedent.

Stage 2A c1777-1790

- Source: Accumulated data consisting of
- + 28 April 1777 Deed, Tavern and Lot, Executors of Moses Davis to Daniel Herbert
 - + 1779 County Tax confirms tavern owned by Herbert
 - + Pre-1800 tavern licenses (undated) for Daniel Herbert
 - + 1799-1805 involvement of Herbert's son William as tavern licensee and 1803 death of Daniel Herbert with detailed will inventories in 1803 & 1806 indicating kitchen chamber

- + Foundation and artifact recovery and analysis for kitchen wing pre-dating 1800
- + Results of detailed architectural investigation, analysis and comparison with local precedent

Stage 3 c1815-1822

Source: Accumulated data consisting of

- + 1803 & 1806 will inventories of Daniel Herbert which do not indicate sufficient rooms to include Stage 3
- + 1806-1814 litigation of D. Herbert estate with partition distribution, 4 April 1814
- + 18 April 1814 Deed, James Herbert to Henry Perrine
- + Mortgages to Perrine: 1814 - \$1,000; 1819 - \$500; 1821 - \$600; 1822 - \$5,073.80 (3 of 4 undischarged)
- + Recession of 1818-1819 with severe deflation 1818-1823; Perrine died insolvent, 1827
- + Subsequent owners of tavern interpretatively did not have the means to add an addition as extensive as Stage 3
- + Apparent flamboyance of Perrine prior to 1818 befits stylistic remodelling and addition
- + Archaeology analysis of artifacts recovered in 1978 & 1982
- + Results of detailed architectural investigation, analysis and stylistic comparison place construction of Stage in first two decades of 19th century

Stage 4 c1900-1906

Source: Accumulated data consisting of

- + c1879-1883 photograph indicating building as the Stage 3 construction
- + 1889 Atlas showing building as "M. Fleming Hotel" without additions
- + 1893-1898 transfer of building to Craig C. Fleming
- + 21 June 1900 Deed, heirs of Margaret Fleming to Craig C. Fleming; title cleared 29 October 1900.
- + 13 September 1900 news item in Monmouth Democrat
"CC Fleming is improving his dining room and is about to remodel his hotel and put in pavement and curb by the front."
- + 4 October 1900 news item in Monmouth Democrat noted CC Fleming had contracted for new flagstone paving
- + 17 October 1900 CC Fleming borrowed \$800 from neighbor and local politician
- + Postcard dated 1906 shows Village Inn with Stage 4
- + Results of detailed architectural investigation, analysis and comparison with local precedent

Stage 4A c1906-1934

Source: Accumulated data consisting of

- + 1909 and 1921 Sanborn Atlas maps indicating building perimeter, height and roofing
- + Post card views, undated, showing progression of changes compared to atlas maps.
- + HABS survey 1934 mainly depicting the confines on the Stage 3 structure and noting addition of Stage 4
- + Results of detailed architectural investigation and analysis
- + Analysis of Fleming-Applegate use of structure in strengthening historical tradition, culminating in 29 June 1929 news item in Asbury Park Sunday Press

2. Architect: None

3. Original and Subsequent Owners: See attached Chain of Title

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers:

Accumulated building is a vernacular structure. Strong supposition that John Davis oversaw the construction of

Stage 2, c1750-1760. Two newspaper accounts indicating start of Stage 4 improvements in 1900, one of which listed "...a Red Bank firm..." for supply and installation of flagstone paving.

5. Original plans and construction:

Accumulated building began as Stage 1, c1726-1732, a Dutch-framed wood structure with clapboard siding and wood shingle roofing in the local vernacular. Most likely, no plans were made for that construction.

6. Alterations and additions:

Stage 2, c1750-1760. 6-foot addition to west and increase height from $1\frac{1}{2}$ -stories to 2-stories with probable kitchen wing (not located).

Stage 2A, c1777-1790. New 14'x16' masonry and frame kitchen brick floored porch constructed to north of Stage 1.

Stage 3, c1815-1822. 20'4"x27'6" addition added to east with frame porch along south elevation. Total structure remodelled in Federal style including extensive interior millwork.

Stage 4, 1900-1906. Local commercial building, 16'x24'6", moved and attached to west end of Stage 2, structural wall (west) at first floor level of Stage 2 removed, porch extended on front to west end of building, and kitchen wing rebuilt as two-story frame addition in place of demolished Stage 2A kitchen. Cross gable added to roof facade on south, ornamental brackets and turned posts replaced posts on porch, and structure painted, all as attempt to make the building look "Victorian".

Stage 4A, c1906-1934. Modifications and changes made to the building culminating in the HABS Drawing Document. Changes made attempted to recall earlier styles - c1934 building appeared between Colonial Revival and Federal. Hallmark dated improvements include:

- c1921 Sanborn atlas map and supporting postcard view-
- + Replacement of wood shingles with clipped slate roofing
 - + Addition of roofed "veranda" and gazebo on north facade in classic revival style
 - + Replacement of building signs with posted sign
 - + Polychrome painting of building
 - + Expansion of kitchen with shed addition to west
 - + Expansion of dining room with "Z-shaped" addition on northwest corner of Stage 2, removing most of first level structural support from older building.
 - + Installation of electricity and hot water heat.
 - + Construction (or relocation) of bar stylistically fitting the "Victorian appearance of the facility.

c1930-1934 HABS Drawings and undated postcard view-

- + Replacement of c1900 eash with multi-paned "Colonial" sash
- + Covering of clapboard siding with 18th century style coursed shingles
- + Bar windows changed to multi-lite casement eash
- + All shutters changed to two-panelled stile and rail units
- + Six panelled entrance doors in pitched-head architrave frames replaced c1900 entrances
- + Porch posts on front changed to federal style columns at a wider spacing
- + Street trees removed
- + Building sign relocated to the east end and carrying the notation, "Est. 1732"
- + The entire exterior facility was painted white
- + C1814-1822 federal interior trim was maintained with appropriate furnishings to, "...complete an atmosphere of the Revolutionary times..." (news account, Ashburby Park Sunday Press, 23 June 1929)

B. Historical Context:

See attached "Village Inn Chronology". Detailed and documented contextual "General History" is contained in the Historic Structures Report for which the chronology is a summary. (page 19)

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character:

The Village Inn is a building which has evolved since the eighteenth century. Its character is cumulative in the sense that owners have added to and subtracted from the building over the years to accommodate changing building use, style, and changing attitudes toward the use of space. At the core of the building is an eighteenth century two-room, Dutch-framed vernacular house. Early nineteenth century alterations created a center-hall plan building with a front porch and a facade arrangement approaching formal symmetry. Turn-of-the century alterations included a cross gable addition to the roof and sawn work porch decorations. During the early twentieth century with the revival of interest in early American architecture, the structure was redecorated to conform to twentieth century notions of "colonial" building.

2. Condition of fabric:

When the Battleground Historical Society acquired the inn in 1978, little maintenance had been performed since the 1950s. The building consequently was in poor condition. The restoration project begun by the historical society in 1978 was halted in 1980 leaving the structural fabric of the building in poor to fair condition, temporarily and tenuously stabilized. Water penetrates twentieth century addition roofs; circa 1930 store addition floors are 50-75% rotted. Foundations are wet; re-built dry-stone foundations are without footings and heave with frost. New wood sill plates and flooring at the first floor level of Stages 1-3 are subject to adverse weathering. Exterior architectural fabric is in fair condition with all first floor openings boarded. All interior trim, plaster, masonry and utilities have been removed as well as most lath at the first floor level of Stages 1-3. Trim and masonry units stored on site in an enclosed structure.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions:

Stages 1-3 2½-story rectangular block 48'0"x27'6" consists of 1320 SF per floor on two levels and 755 SF in floored portion of attic over Stages 1 & 2.

Stage 4 2-story barrel at front plane and to west of Stage 2, 24'6"x17'0" consisting of 408 SF per floor over a partial cellar in two parts: stone part 6'9"x10'6" partially extends under Stage 4A dining room; concrete block part 10'0"x12'0" under center of ell with front bulkhead entrance.

2-story kitchen ell 14'0"x22'0" consisting of 312 SF per floor.

Stage 4A Single-story "L" addition consisting of 29'8"x17'6" north of barrel and 6'0" x 15'3" west of kitchen ell.

Single-story, two bay commercial addition west of barrel, 27'10"x40'8".

2. Foundations:

Stages 1-3 Local fieldstone rubble wall originally mortared at perimeter with interim stone piers at partitions. Walls set on sand bed approximately 12"-18" below bottom of floor joists. Reconstructed foundations of dry-laid fieldstone rubble on perimeter and piers. The foundations were trenched on the south to allow a two step entrance; the north wall essentially was built on grade. Remnant diagonal thickening of stonework at the east side of Stage 1 outlined original fireplace locations.

Stages 4-4A Perimeter 8-inch running bond red brick in cement mortar. Barrel intersects pre-existing stone cellar foundation on north which was expanded to the south facade with cement block. The northeast corner of the barrel brick foundation was laid on very old (18th century) remnant stone foundation abutting the west end of Stage 2. A brick feature was discovered archaeologically under the east end of the barrel.

3. Walls:

Stages 1-4 Exterior frame walls covered with coarse wood shingles ± 10-inch exposure painted white. Shingles wire nailed over 5/8-inch tapered clapboard siding 5-inch exposure. Clapboard abuts 1"x4" corner boards and was painted at least twice with the most recent color yellow.

Stages 1-3 clapboard siding nailed directly to framing with wire nails. Handmade and cut nail evidence was found for earlier clapboard siding on all stages $6\frac{1}{2}$ -inch exposure abutting 4-inch corner boards. Remnant first floor Stage 1-2 wattle and daub and Stage 1-3 brick nogging were removed during the initial restoration process.

Stage 4 bar ell siding wire nailed over 1"x10" rough sawn sheathing on the diagonal. Stage 4 kitchen ell siding wire-nailed over 1"x10" rough sawn horizontal sheathing with modern brick nogging, partially removed.

Stage 4A

Exterior frame walls covered with horizontal coursed shingles as above wire nailed to 1"x10" board sheathing, except rear of stores 5-inch clapboard.

4. Structural system, framing:

Stage 1

Dutch-framed with hand-hewn, numerically marked, mortise and tenon, pegged white oak consisting of 5"x8" perimeter sill plates, 5"x7"x1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -story vertical posts, 5"x6" roof plates, 5"x7" floor joists (bottom beaded on garret floor level) and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x6-7" diagonal braces at the corners and at midspan of the facades. Wattle and daub fill.

Stage 2

Dutch-framed on top of and adjacent to Stage 1 in manner similar to Stage 1 with new posts at west end 2-stories high, impost-style brackets added at the upper corners (4) to stabilize the three-way mortised construction, 5"x5" head and sill lintels. Brick nogging infill, removed 1980. Roof framed with consecutively numbered 4"x6" rafters, collared and mortised at the peak.

Stage 3

Vernacular barn-built modified post and girt, mortised and tenon system, pegged type reused and vertically sawn white oak consisting of 6"x6" perimeter sill plate and 8"x8" mid span girt with 4"x8" vertical posts mortised to sill and rising 2-stories at corners and at midspan to roof plate, diagonally braced (west side through-bolted (1-inch cast iron) to Stage 1 corner posts; 4"x6" beams mortised to sill and girt support 3"x4" first floor sleepers; 4"x8" girts at posts and over center partition (removed 1980) support 3"x8" second and attic level joists; 3"x4" studs mortised to sill and girts between posts and infilled with brick nogging (removed 1980); and 3"x6" uncollared rafters mortised at peak (later 1"x2" boards leveled reroofing over deflected rafters).

- Stage 4
Bar ell Circular sawn, wire nailed framing consisting of 3"x4" perimeter sill plate, 2"x10" joists, 2"x4" studs with double caps, and 2"x8" rafters to ridge; diagonal bracing at corners. East wall removed when structure adjoined Stage 2.
- Kitchen ell Circular sawn, wire nailed framing consisting of 3"x4" perimeter sill plate, 2"x10" joists, 2"x4" studs with double caps and 2"x8" rafters to ridge; south wall is north exterior wall of Stage 1.
- Stage 4A All framing modern wire-nailed 2"x4" wall construction with sill and double cap, 2"x10" joists (2"x8" in stores) and 2"x8" roof joists/rafters.

5. Porches, awnings and bulkhead:

C1930 five-bay, 6-foot deep porch along entire extent of south facade over flagstone paving, stopping at east corner of Stage 4A stores. Framed of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square wrapped columns on concrete plinths with colonial revival trim at base and cap to approximate composite order; 2"x4" rafters to double 8-inch wrapped perimeter beam trimmed with composite entablature. 1"x6" tongue and groove exposed, sawn and planed boards support low pitch asphalt covered metal roof. Remnant foundations of earlier porch found archaeologically, c1815-1822. Hand dug, brick-lined well at east end of bar ell, probably 18th century.

Prefinished metal awning canopy projects 4'6" across store fronts.

Concrete paving remains along north facade of Stages 1 & 3 indicating extent of veranda, c1910-1920.

Bulkhead to concrete block basement with double metal doors flat to walk paving, opening 4'0" x 4'0" left of Stage 4 bar entrance.

6. Chimneys:

Brick chimneys indicated on HABS drawings, Stages 1-3 removed 1980. Framing, floor openings and temporary roof coverings indicate positions. C1900-1930 kitchen ell chimney, 1'6"x1'10" brick exists for stove flue. C1930 1'6"x2'1" brick chimney between stores for central heat boiler.

7. Openings

All openings in Stages 1-4 have added 3/4-inch quarter round moulding to accomodate c1930 shingle wall covering. All sash mortise and tenon with thin muntins. All exterior trim wire-nailed except Stage 3 window openings cut nailed; glass is single strength A & B grade, not old.

a. Doorways and doors:

Stages 1-4 Four 15-lite cl930 single leaf french doors in single architrave frames, three south elevation entrances with pitched heads and the main entrance with ears; north elevation exit with plain frame. Cl900 rear entrance to kitchen ell missing.

Structural frame for door to Stage 1-2 bar is original Stage 1 construction. Main entrance (south) and exit (north) into Stage 3 hallway are original Stage 3 construction. Door to Stage 4 bar ell is original Stage 4 construction.

Northern window on east facade of Stage 3 formerly a door, cl815-1822.

Stage 4A Cl930 double store entrances (south) contain one 6-lite french door (west); east doorway converted to window. Two rear doorways have fixed lite transoms over panelled sash door hung on cast iron butt hinges and mortised locks.

b. Windows:

Stage 1-2 Cl930 double casement 15-lite sash in 1"x framed openings on first floor. Second floor contains three 6/6 (south) and three 2/2 (north) cl930 double-hung sash in 1" frames in original Stage 2 locations; structural frames probably Stage 3.

Cl900 gable contains cl930 6/6 double-hung sash in original frame. Four south elevation openings shuttered with cl930 2-panel (flat) shutters on cast hinges.

Stage 3 All window frames cl815-1822 with 20th century sash shuttered with cl930 2-panel (flat) shutters on cast hinges. South elevation, first floor 12/12, second floor 6/6, and east and north elevations cl900 2/2 double-hung sash.

Stage 4
Bar ell Cl930 first floor double casement 15-lite sash in 1"x framed openings enlarged from cl900 openings. Second floor, south elevation cl930 6/6 double-hung sash shuttered with 2-panel (flat) shutters in cl900 openings; north and west elevations, original 2/2 double-hung sash.

Kitchen ell Eight cl900 2/2 double-hung sash and two cl930 13-lite awning sash in framed openings.

Stage 4A Cl930 "z" addition contains one 13-lite awning sash, framed opening for three to four sash now missing. and two 4'x5' 2/2 double-hung sash. Second floor bath addition to Stage 4 contains one 4-lite casement sash.

Cl930 storefronts each contain angled front plate glass windows with multiple lite fixed sash above all in wood frames; inner access to display windows through four 12-lite casement sash. North elevation contains four 1/1 double-hung sash in trimmed openings.

8. Roof

a. Shape, covering:

Stages 1-4 Moderately pitched roofs original to each stage of structure (cl750-1900) with clipped slate over cl900 wood shingles on open lath.

Kitchen ell minimum pitched roof, presumably with asphalt covered metal roofing.

Stage 4A Shed roofs on "z" addition roofed with slate on solid sheathing covered with building paper. Stores are minimum slope flat roofs of built-up bituminous roofing.

b. Cornice, eaves:

Stage 1-3 Stage 2 hand wrought nailed box cornice on north and south elevations returned to facade wall, copied and nailed with cut nails on Stage 3. Cornice interrupted on south by cl900 cross gable (wire nailed) of similar size box cornice with flat board "crown". Double plain board straight barges on east and west gable ends partially covered with cl930 coursed shingles.

Stage 4 Bar has wire nailed box cornice and barge similar to cross gable on Stage 2 roof.

Kitchen ell has wire nailed plain box cornice without crown at eaves and gable end.

See 5. Porches.

Stage 4A "Z" addition eave open, guttered.

Store front (south) has panelled wood parapet with asphalt shingled and boxed pent below. North eave trimmed and guttered.

c. Cross Gable: Cl900 gable dormer constructed with wire nails and 2"x structural framing on top of Stage 2 roofing lath. See Openings - Windows.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans

- a. Basement: Partial basement under Stage 4 Bar ell. See B.2 Foundations.
- b. First, second and attic floors: See plans, page 47 and 48. Historic Village Inn, Stage 4A c1935/1980, A First Floor Plan and B Second Floor Plan. See HABS drawing sheet 6 for Attic Plan.

2. Stairways:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Stage 2 | Framed openings and evidence in adjacent flooring and framing for stairs first floor to attic mid-span along west wall. |
| Stage 3 | Principal stair in center hall in situ opposite main entrance. Run to second floor straight run with return railing at second floor, trimmed plain with tapered, spindle balusters and mahogany railing and turned newel (detailed on HABS drawing sheet 12). Stair to attic enclosed straight run. |
| Stage 4 | Wood ships ladder to basement from pantry behind bar. Concrete enclosed bulkhead, stairs missing. "L" winder to second floor of kitchen ell in situ enclosed in southwest corner. |

3. Flooring:

- Stages 1-3 Earthen crawl spaces.

First floor 1980 6"-12" random width face nailed pine flooring restored appearance of material found in situ (See HABS drawing sheet 11)

Second Floor 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pine strip flooring over random width wide board flooring face nailed with hand wrought nails in Stages 1-2, cut nails in Stage 3.

Attic floor of original random width flooring face nailed with hand wrought nails, Stage 2 only. Stage 3 attic unfloored.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Stage 4 | Kitchen ell first floor removed 1980; second floor 6-inch pine tongue and groove flooring. |
|---------|--|

Bar ell 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch oak strip flooring over 1"x6" subfloor; first floor carpetted.

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Stage 4A | "Z" addition flooring removed 1980. |
|----------|-------------------------------------|

Stores 1"x4" pine strip flooring face nailed with resilient tile over.

4. Wall and ceiling finish:

- Stage 1-3 Removed 1980 (formerly plaster on sawn and hand-split wood lath.
- Stage 4 Kitchen ell first floor $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch board wainscot with wood lath and plaster above. Second floor wood lath and plaster.
- Bar ell first floor $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch board (tongue and groove) diagonal patterns between 1-inch board trim with quarter-round moulding on edges. Second Floor wood lath and plaster.
- Stage 4A "2" addition wood lath and plaster walls; ceiling of dining area panelled between false, trimmed beams with wood fiber board. Kitchen extension ceiling boarded.
- Store walls dry-walled. 12"x12" suspended ceiling tile on 2"x4" wood grid beneath $2\frac{1}{4}$ -boarded ceiling directly nailed to the roof joists.

5. Openings

a. Doorways and doors:

- Stages 1-3 First floor, reference ^{(plan (page 47) and} HABS drawing sheet 4. All doors and trim removed 1980 except:

E Original trimmed partition opening, Stage 1-2 with pintle evidence. 5-panel door on cast butt hinges with thumb latch possibly Stage 3.

G&I Stage 3 original framed opening of mortise and tenon $4\frac{1}{2}$ "x5" solid planed stock with double architrave mouldings.

Second Floor, reference HABS drawing sheet 5. All simple plank frames beaded probably Stage 3 original. 4-, 5-, and 6-panel doors hung by cast iron butt hinges, probably Stage 3. Attic enclosure door original vertical board and batten on cast butt hinges. Latch sets c1900-1930.

- Stage 4 Two doors west of bar pre-date construction of bar ell and were probably reused from elsewhere. HABS door M 5-panel on c1900 cast butt hinges with mortised lock. Door N 4-panel on c1900 cast butt hinges with cast iron thumb latch. All frames 1" plank. All doors removed 1980 in kitchen ell.

Stage 4A Framed openings on c1930 stores' partitions trimmed simply with 1"x plank frames. Doors a mixture of modern flush and reused 2- and 5-panel c.1900 stile and rail units.

b. Windows:

All trim in Stages 1-3 first floor windows removed 1980, presumably with double-hung sash trimmed similar to double architrave detailed on HABS drawing sheet 11, c1815-1822. All casement sash in Stages 1-2 and all windows in Stages 4 and 4A trimmed simply with 1"x plank, wire nailed.

6. Decorative features and trim:

All trim in Stages 1-3 removed 1980. Three decorative fireplaces in Stage 3 presumably date from that stage and are in storage. See details HABS drawing sheets 7, 8,&9.

Back bar and bar in Stage 4 either constructed with that stage or moved from another bar of recent vintage. Construction stile and rail, flat panelled with mirrored back bar capped with crowned cornice. Cornice columns have machine carved capitals. Construction wire nailed.

7. Hardware:

All hardware generally removed in Stages 1-3, 1980, except as noted above under 5-Openings. Hardware in Stages 4 and 4A a variety of cast and steel butt hinges, thumb latches, mortise locks, rim locks and latch sets and porcelain and steel knobs all dating from the c1900-1930 constructions.

8. Mechanical equipment

a. Heating: Stage 3 fireplaces and chimneys removed 1980; See HABS drawings. C1930 hot water - cast radiator heating system removed from Stages 1-3 (1980); remnants of system remain in other stages including boiler.

b. Lighting: C1900-1930 knob and tube and sheathed wiring removed from Stages 1-3, 1980, and remains in Stages 4 and 4A. Outlets and light fixtures c1930 and later. Electric service panel in rear of stores, inactive. Electric service on-site temporarily in adjacent building to north (2-story Helps' Room).

c. Plumbing: Water and sewer service shut off at present. All plumbing and fixtures removed from Stages 1-3. Two toilet rooms exist in rear of stores; one toilet/bath exists on second floor of Stage 4, added to north.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: See attached "Historic Village Inn Plot Plan". Located at the northwest corner of Main and Water Streets, the .45 acre site slopes naturally to the northwest at an approximate one percent grade. The Inn borders the south perimeter of the lot. A rear yard is grassed with several trees along the the west boundry. A wood fence surrounds all open land; concrete walks and curbs bound both street frontages. The site contains three outbuikdings.
2. Historic landscape design: Archaeological testing of the site revealed 19th and 20th century tavern/inn rear yard necessities such as a barn, stable, ice house, hog wallow and cold cellar. Masonry walks and a gravel drive bisect a probable barnyard appearance.
3. Outbuildings: Three outbuildings exist in yard behind the extant structure. See attached Plot Plan.

19th century 2-story frame barn with slate gabled roof.

Cl900 1-story, slate roofed, 4-bay shed. Possibly structure earlier 19th century origin relocated on site.

Cl850-1900 1-story frame "Helps' Room" over a brick cold cellar.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural data:

No drawings for the original building or subsequent additions are known to exist.

1934-36 Historic American Buildings Survey presents a thorough document on the Stages 1-3 structure. See attached comments to that survey which resulted from 1982 investigation and publication of "Historic Structures Report and Restoration Plan."

Architectoral, historical and archaeological investigation of the structure, 1981-82, resulting in "Historic Structures Report and Restoration Plan, Historic Village Inn, Englishtown, New Jersey."

B. Early views:

Deed partition, battlefield, atlas and tax maps of the site, dating from 1814, provide valuable clues to the origin and configuration of the structure. See Historic Structures Report.

Cl906-1935 photographic postcard views of the Village Inn. See Historic Structures Report.

C. Bibliography: See attached Historic Structures Report Bibliography. (page 35)

D. Likely sources not yet investigated: None

E. Supplementary Material:

"Historic Structures Report and Restoration Plan, Historic Village Inn, Englishtown, New Jersey"; 1982, prepared by Robert L. DeSilets, AIA, Architect, for the Battleground Historical Society.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

- A. Project: Restoration of the Historic Village Inn, c1815-1822.
Includes demolition of all 20th century additions and modifications.
- B. Federal Agency: Funds are provided through the Department of Housing and Urban Development to Monmouth County Community Development Department who made a block grant to the Village of Englishtown for this Project.

Prepared by: Robert L. DeSilets, AIA
Architect
Robert L. DeSilets, AIA, Architect
Ardmore, Pennsylvania

Prepared for the Battleground Historical Society
Tennent, New Jersey

30 January 1984

VILLAGE INN CHRONOLOGY

Tavern license (TL) names correspond to deeds, references to the Inn, or its owners and keepers in the tavern licenses references themselves. The list is from a compilation of licenses for the Village of Englishtown, Freehold Township, 1794-1886, as found in official tavern license applications and other county records stored at the Monmouth County Historical Association Library, Freehold, New Jersey

- 1726 Robert Newell, a tailor, purchases 30 acres from miller William Clark. Land where building is situated is included in this purchase.
- ca.1726/1734 Stage One: 1½ story tailor shop-residence, side-hall plan, 2 rooms deep, back-to-back corner fireplaces on east wall.
- 1749 Thomas Davis of Middletown purchases 130 acres (including house) from Robert Newell. John Davies, his supposed son, is hired to be chief carpenter for construction of the Old Tennent Church.
- ca.1749-1755 Stage Two: Davis expands his house to 2 full floors with loft above; 6 foot hall added on west side.
- 1762 Thomas Davis sells 1 1/20 acre lot with the house to his son, Moses Davis, a tailor. Thomas Davis dies in 1773.
- 1766-67 "Moses Davis Book of Tavern Accounts" lists 140 customers.
- 1777 Moses Davis dies. Tavern and lot sold to Daniel Herbert, a tanner.
- 1778 June 28th--Battle of Monmouth fought a few miles from the tavern. American officers housed at Englishtown.
- 1779 Daniel Herbert taxed for 1 tavern, 1 tanyard, and 181 acres.
(TL) Daniel Herbert
- 1780-1790 Stage Two-A: Herbert replaces fire damaged kitchen with substantial new structure.
- 1799 (TL) Daniel and William Herbert
1801 (TL) Daniel and William Herbert
1803 (TL) Daniel and William Herbert
- 1803 Daniel Herbert dies. Final settlement of his estate is not until 1814. Tavern and lot go to son, James G. Herbert.
- 1805 (TL) William Herbert
- 1814 Henry I. Perrine, son-in-law of Daniel Herbert, dec'd. borrows money to buy the tavern and lot and other property.

- 1814 (TL) Henry J. Perrine
- ca.1815 Stage Three: Large addition on east side (Main Street), old fire places blocked off, new fireplaces on east and west ends, entrance moved to center of building on Water Street, new Federalized appearance on facade.
- 1815 (TL) Henry J. Perrine
- 1817 (TL) Henry J. Perrine
- 1818-26 (TL) Henry J. Perrine
- 1827 Henry 1. Perrine dies insolvent leaving outstanding mortgages on his properties. Court orders sale.
- 1828-29 (TL) William Gaston
- 1830 Dr. James English (son of Dr. James English, dec'd., mortgagor) puts tavern house and .62 acre lot in trust for Catherine Gaston and her heirs.
- 1830 (TL) William Gaston
- 1831-32 (TL) Mary Ann Gaston
- 1834 (TL) Mary A. Gaston
- 1836 (TL) Letitia Gaston
- 1838 (TL) Hannah Gaston
- 1839-40 (TL) William Gaston
- 1841 (TL) William Gaston. License refers to inn as "...being the oldest stand in said village."
- 1843 (TL) William Gaston (Temperance Hall)
- 1843-45 Catherine Gaston dies, Court orders sale of her property. In 1845, son John purchases tavern and lot.
- 1844-49 (TL) John B. Gaston
- 1845 Forman Walton purchases tavern and lot from John B. Gaston.
- 1846 David G. Gordon purchases tavern and lot (3/4 acre)
- 1848 William R. Denison (Davison) purchases tavern and lot (3/4 acre)
- 1857 Thomas Huffman purchases tavern and lot (3/4 acre)
- 1853 Jacob McElvaine (McIlvaine) purchases tavern house and lot (3/4 acre). He then purchases the 1/8 acre adjoining lot from Daniel Stephens.
- 1853 (TL) Jacob Mackelwaine
- 1855-56 (TL) Jacob Mackelwaine
- 1858 (TL) Jacob Mackelwaine
- 1859-62 (TL) Jacob Mackelwaine
- 1866 (TL) Margaret Mackelwaine
- 1868 Margaret McElvaine, widow of Jacob, sells tavern and both lots to John J. Perrine of Middlesex County. Beers Atlas, 1873, shows it as "J. J. Perrine Union Hotel."
- 1868 (TL) Charles H. M. Thompson

- 1870 (TL) James Smock
1872 (TL) James Smock
1874-75 (TL) James Smock
1877-78 (TL) James Smock
- 1879 Margaret Fleming, Freehold, wife of innkeeper Richard Fleming, purchases tavern and lot from Perrine. Property is shown on 1889 atlas map as "M. Fleming Hotel."
- 1879-80 (TL) Richard Fleming
1882 (TL) Richard Fleming
1883-85 (TL) Margaret Fleming
1886 (TL) Margaret Fleming (Village House)
- 1893 Margaret Fleming, widow, sells the tavern property to son, Craig C. Fleming through a mortgage deed.
- 1900 Margaret Fleming dies in 1898. Her other children execute deed to Craig C. Fleming to clear title in 1900. Craig mortgages tavern house and lots to Charles F. McDonald.
- 1900 Stage Four: Bar addition on west side, 2 story over partial basement. Cross-gable added over center of building. On 1909 Sanborn Map of Englishtown, building is called "Village House."
- 1923 Craig C. Fleming dies leaving tavern house property to his only surviving child, G. Hazel Applegate, wife of James Applegate. Building undergoes cosmetic remodeling, wood shingle roof covered with slate, and gazebo added (since torn off) on north side in the 1920's. Ca. 1930 name of building changed to "Village Inn" and it is run as hotel and restaurant. During Prohibition, bar is used as ice cream parlor.
- 1934 Structure recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey.
- 1968 G. Hazel Applegate, widow, having no issue, transfers title to property to her husband's nephew, Kenneth P. Applegate, Jr., as trustee. Hazel dies in late 1960s.
- 1973 Kenneth P. Applegate, Jr., and other heirs, as executors of G. Hazel Applegate, dec'd., sell the property to the Borough of Englishtown. Village Inn listed in 1972 on the New Jersey State Register and on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1978 Village Inn sold by the Borough of Englishtown to the Battle-ground Historical Society.

Ac

VILLAGE INN
Englishtown, NJ

CHAIN OF TITLE

Abbreviations:

D.B.	Deed Book
M.B.	Mortgage Book
NJSL	New Jersey State Library, Archives and History Bureau, Trenton
MCHA	Monmouth County Historical Association, Freehold
O.C.	Orphan's Court
h/w; h/h	Deed References: "his wife" "her husband"
NJA	New Jersey Archives

All deeds, except Colonial Conveyances, are Monmouth County records found at the Monmouth County Hall of Records, Freehold, New Jersey; or where noted, at NJSL on microfilm. Colonial Conveyances are on microfilm at NJSL. Probate records, including wills and Orphan's Court proceedings are at the Surrogate's Office, Monmouth County Hall of Records and at NJSL.

A chain of title is traced from the present back to the earliest owner, however, for ease of reading, is here given in the reverse order. Names and all spellings are as shown on the originals with modern punctuation added for comprehension. Actual deed measurements have generally been omitted for the sake of brevity; whereas directional, boundary, and road references are included. The unit of measurement in the eighteenth century deed descriptions is the chain which is sixty-six feet long.

The Village Inn is located in the Borough of Englishtown, Manalapan Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey. Prior to 1848, Englishtown was in Freehold Township. The name "Englishtown" does not appear on maps before the Revolution, nor does it appear on deeds until the nineteenth century.

The property is situated at the corner of Main and Water Streets, Water Street was known historically as "the Road to Matcheponix," and on a deed of 1726 as "the highway."

Main Street, a later road, was originally called "the road to Middletown Point" and was probably "Walter Kerr's line" of 1726.

While focus has been on the tavern lot, its origin as part of a 130 acre tract has been traced. Except where relevant to the tavern lot's history, disposition of the entire original tract is not given.

16 Sept. 1726

D.B. C3, p.305
NJSL, Reel 96A
30 acres

William Clark and Rachel h/w, miller, Monmouth County
to
Robert Newell, taylor, same place

"...All that tract of Land Scituated and being in the Forks of the Matcheponix River, Beginning at the Bridge at the Taile of the said William Clark's Mill and running as the highway goes to Walter Kerr's line, thence along Walter Kerr's line to Spotswood brook, thence down as the brook goes till it meets with Wemcoke brook, thence up Wemcoke brook to the Ditch which is on the North Side of Wemcoke brook, thence along the Ditch as it now is to the bridge where it began.

Containing by estimation Thirty acres..." L40.

Deed was confirmed by memorandum added on 2 March 1733/4.

See also D.B. C3, p.306, 20 Feb. 1727: George Rescarrick, Middlesex County, to Robert Newell, taylor, Monmouth County, 50 acres. Deed for unsurveyed lands formerly belonging to James Brains, deceased, and now part of 666 acre tract vested in Rescarrick. Deed reconfirmed 2 March 1733/4. This acreage, along with the purchase from Clark, above, became part of the 130 acre tract which Newell sold in 1749 to Thomas Davis (Davies).

The Clark title prior to 1726 is unclear, but the 30 acres probably was part of 160 acres Clark bought from Daniel Ketcham in 1722 (D.B. G, p.137) on the north-east side of Wemcoke brook which included mill right, and which Ketcham purchased of Robert Barclay who got it from Walter Ker(r); descriptions and locations are the same, but dates conflict.

11 Aug. 1749
entered 1753

D.B. H, p.67a
(end of book)
130 acres

Robert Newell, yeoman, late of Freehold
to
Thomas Davies (Davis), yeoman, late of Middletown

"...a certain tract of Land Scituate lying and being in Freehold...on Wemecock Brook which was granted...unto the said Robert Newell" by the following deeds of sale:

Robert and Rachel Clark [above]	16 Sept. 1726
John Burnet	13 June 1737
George Rescarrick [above]	20 Feb. 1727
James Alexander	11 May 1738
William Covenhoven	30 July 1746
Samuel Nevill	12 April 1749
Samuel Nevill	24 May 1749

"Beginning at a Stake Standing on a Ditch being the South Easterly corner Robert Newell's Land and also a corner of William Covenhoven's Land...[description mentions "Indian Bog"] Easterly to Matcheponix Brook or River, thence up Said Brook to the Mouth of Spotswood Brook, thence up said Brook to a corner of Robert McGalliard's Land, thence South...to the...Road that goes from Conine's Mill to Matcheponix,

thence Westerly along said Road...to the Bridge over Wemecock Brook, thence up said Brook and Ditch...to the Beginning. Containing by estimation One Hundred and Thirty Acres..." L360.

See also NJSL, Reel 95, H2, p.1B3. Deed of 1746: Robert Newell to Philip Conine, miller. Land in Monmouth County Newell got from Wm. Clark 6 Sept. 1726 and from John Burnet 13 June 1737. Acreage is 5½ and includes the mill run. This would indicate Clark's mill was purchased by Newell who then sold it to Conine; it is later referred to as "William Covenhoven's Mill."

27 Jan. 1762

Colonial Convey-
ances K2, p.394
NJSL, Reel 96
1 1/20 acres

Thomas Davis, yeoman, of Freehold, Monmouth County
to
Moses Davis, taylor, of the same place

"...a certain Tract (or lott) of land...in Freehold...near Wemecock brook which was granted...unto...the said Thomas Davis by Deed of Sale...of Robert Newell...", bearing the date 11th of August 1749..." Beginning at a stone at the Corner where Matcheponix road that goes from William Covenhoven's Mill to said Matcheponix empties or parts from the road...from said William Covenhoven's mill along by Robert Megalliard's, and running northerly along the road that goes by Robert Magalliard...containing one acre and one twentieth part of an acre..." L4.

By this deed, Thomas Davis has granted to his son, Moses, the lot of land wherein lay the tavern house (confirmed by later deeds). The location described: "where Matcheponix road..parts from said road...and running northerly along the road that goes by Robert Magalliard..." corresponds with the present-day corner of Water and Main Streets, as well as the 1726 deed description: "...running as the highway goes to Walter Kerr's line,..."

Thomas Davis dies in 1773 (Will 3977M at NJSL). In his will of 1766, he left the remainder of his 130 acres in Freehold and other unsold property to his widow and children. In an effort to settle the estate, or to raise money, his executors, sons Thomas, Jr., and Moses, mortgaged all the property Davis had purchased from Newell, excepting the tavern lot, to William Covenhoven, Jr., (M.B. A, p.285, 24 July 1776, Wm. Covenhoven, Jr., to Thomas Davis, Jr., and Moses Davis, executors of Thomas Davis, two bonds at L13D.6.8 each, due 1 May 1778). While the acreage is 130. the same as the deed from Newell to Davis, the deed description distinctly exludes the lot owned by Moses Davis.

Covenhoven then mortgaged the property to John and Elisha Walton, 7 June 1777 (M.B. A, p.287). In a deed of 12 June 1778 Elisha gave his share to his brother, John Walton (D.B. P, p.613, Elisha Walton and wife to John Walton).

The deed is for two different tracts, the second of which is for "one equal undivided half of a tract of land lying in Freehold granted and confirmed unto Elisha and John Walton by deed of Sale of William A. Covenhoven, Jr., and Lydia, his wife, 7 June 1777..." In the description, the property runs to "the ditch that encloses the lot late of Moses Davis..."

28 April 1777

unrecorded deed
cited in D.B. V,
p.179 (1809)
1 1/20 acres

Thomas and Aaron Davis, Executors of Moses Davis, deceased,
to

Daniel Herbert

Moses Davis, a lieutenant in the militia, died in 1777 of unknown causes, leaving no issue. His building is documented as being a tavern at least as early as 1766 (Moses Davis, "Tavern Account Book," 1766-7, MSS, Monmouth County Historical Assn.). In his will, Moses expressly stated that his property be sold and the proceeds be divided among his brothers, sisters, and nephew (Will 4427M, 1777). Accordingly, his executors sold the building and lot to Daniel Herbert, presumably of Freehold.

As is the case with other deeds executed during the Revolution, this deed apparently went unrecorded. It is quoted, however, with full particulars, in a deed of 1809 (D.B. V, p.179) from David E. Laird, Herbert's son-in-law, to Laird's children, in expectation of a property settlement during the partition of Herbert's estate (see below). This deed is important because of its references to the two Davis transactions: "...a certain tract or lott of land situated near Wemecock brook which was granted to Moses Davis, Dec.^d by deed of sale from Thomas Davis, Sr., Jan. 27, 1762. Beginning at a stone where Matcheponx road that goes from William Covenhoven's Mill empties or parts from the road that goes from said Covenhoven's Mill along by Robert McGallard's and running northerly along the road that goes by McGallard's 3 chains...westerly being the course that Matcheponx runs...bounded westerly and northerly by land of William Covenhoven, Jr., southerly by Matcheponx Road, and easterly by the road that goes along by said McGallard...which tract or land conveyed unto... Daniel Herbert...by Thomas and Aaron Davis, Executors of Moses Davis, Dec.^d, dated April 28, 1777, from which deed the above description is taken." There is no indication that Laird or his children ever took title to the tavern lot. This deed also mentions that Daniel Herbert also purchased 50 acres of John Walton and his wife 20 June 1777 (unrecorded).

4 April 1814
D.B. X, p.342

James G. Herbert and others, Heirs of Daniel Herbert,
Deceased

in
Partition of Real Estate

By the time he died in 1803, Daniel Herbert had amassed a substantial estate. In 1779 he had been taxed on 181 acres, a tavern, and a tanyard (NJSL, MSS, Tax Ratables, Freehold Township, Monmouth County, Box 73, #1124). His will of 1803 left his wife, Dorothy Ann (d. 1805) a life interest in his estate. It also stipulated that after her death \$200 each should go to son, Daniel (d. 1804), daughters, Margaret Perrine (Mrs. Henry I. Perrine), and Rebecca Laird (Mrs. David E. Laird), with the residue to be divided between sons, William, John, and James. The will further stated that should "Either of my Three Sons... die without legal Heirs then their share shall be equally divided between the Surviving Brothers & Sisters..." (NJSL Will 8541M; see also NJA, Abstract of Wills, Ser. 1, X, 212). William D. Herbert died in 1809 without legal heirs (Will 8812M); therefore, in accordance with his father's will, the estate was put into lengthy Probate Court proceedings which were finally resolved by this partition of 1814. Beside the tavern house and lot, and the tanyard, the partition was concerned with the distribution of about 80 acres. Inventories were taken in 1803, 1805, and 1806. Distribution is as follows (in part):

(1) "To James G. Herbert, the Tavern Lott situated in the Village of Englishtown. Beginning at a stone in the forks of two roads, one leading to the point, the other leading to Matcheponex...containing .62 acres." He also received other land.

(2) Henry I. Perrine received a small lot of .46 acres, "excepting out of the same the schoolhouse lot," at the westernmost corner of the tavern lot; the tanyard lot having 12 acres "beginning at a stake formerly on Robert Newell's land, also a corner of William Covenhoven's land... to the bridge over the Matcheponix Brook, to the ditch and back to the beginning." Two woodland lots also went to Perrine.

(3) An 18 acre lot went to Herbert's other son-in-law, David E. Laird, "...beginning where Spottswood North Brook meets with the Matcheponix Brook..." Clearly, Laird, who in 1809 had expectations of receiving a far greater share of his father-in-law's estate, did not fare in the 1814 distribution in any way as well as his brother-in-law, Henry I. Perrine.

18 April 1814

D.8. X, p.158

.62 acre

20 acres

James G. Herbert and Charlotte, His Wife, Freehold,
to
Henry I. Perrine, Same Place

James G. Herbert promptly sold the tavern lot and a 20 acre tract to his brother-in-law, Henry I. Perrine for the sum of \$1,500: "...the following lots of land situate in the Village of Englishtown:

(1) where the Tavern house now stands. Beginning at a stone standing in the forks of the two roads, one leading to Middletown Point and the other to Matcheponix...containing .62 acre."

(2) a 20 acre lot James Herbert got from the will of his father, Daniel Herbert, deceased, dated 2 March 1803.

Henry I. Perrine borrowed money four times by mortgaging the tavern lot and his other property to the following people:

22 April 1814 - Dr. James English, \$1,100. Deed includes:

- (1) .62 acre tavern lot
- (2) 20 acre lot
- (3) 16 acres woodland
- (4) 34 acres on westernmost line of the tract

This mortgage was never discharged. English was married to Perrine's cousin, Hannah. (M.B. E, p.407)

20 Oct. 1819 - James G. Herbert, \$500. Same description. Debt cancelled 29 Oct. 1921. (M.B. F, p.195)

24 July 1821 - Mayor, Recorder, Adlman, and Common Council, City of New Brunswick, \$600. "...lot where the Tavern house now stands..." Undischarged debt. (M.B. F, p.393).

7 March 1822--Nathaniel Hillyer, New York, \$5,073.80. Same description of properties, includes "...the lot where [Perrine] now lives and occupies in the Village of Englishtown, .62 acres..." Undischarged debt. (M.B. F, p.562).

See also D.8. V, p.300, John Herbert to Henry I. Perrine, 1811, 16 acres (?); Tavern licenses for Perrine at MCHA; and D.B. G2, p.329, Henry I. Perrine to Daniel Herbert Perrine, 1821, 6 acres near "Foreman's Farm...together with all manner of buildings stills, cisterns, casks..." The latter was his stillyard.

4 April 1830

D.B. W2, p.163

Daniel Holmes, Sheriff

to

James English

Court of Chancery Decree: Estate of Henry I. Perrine

Henry I. Perrine died insolvent in 1827. He left a widow, Margaret, and nine children, some of whom were minors. (O.C. Book H, p.29; File 19673; Will Book C, p.46). In 1827 the court appointed as executors the widow, Dr. James English (the son of the man of the same name who had loaned Perrine money in 1814), and Nathaniel Hillyer, who had also loaned money to Perrine. The mortgages from the City of New Brunswick was unpaid. This latter mortgage resulted in the Chancery Court case City of New Brunswick vs. the Executors of Henry Perrine and on 6 Jan. 1830, the court ordered the sale of Perrine's properties "at public vendue at the house of William Gaston, Innkeeper," on 16 April 1830. Advertisements were to be placed in the Monmouth Enquirer for four weeks prior to the sale. Perrine's property (much of it deriving from the Herbert partition or Perrine's purchases thereof) totaled about 83 acres which included: the Tavern House and lot of land, the "Middle Field" of 27 acres, the 16 acre woodlot, the 6 acre "still house" lot, the 34 acre backfield, and the tanyard field (acreage not given). Proceeds were to be used for settlement of notes to English (now deceased) and to the City of New Brunswick.

At the sale on 16 April 1830, Dr. James English II bought the Tavern House and lot of land for \$1,050, the woodlot for \$62, and the Middle Field for \$199. From the remaining lots, David Laird, Jr., purchased the tanyard field for \$120 (D.B. W2, p.4).

10 July 1830

D.B. W2, p.142
.62 acre

Dr. James English, New Brunswick

to

John Perrine, Jr., Trustee

Dr. English appointed John Perrine, Jr., as trustee to whom he sold the property for \$1100, of which he took back a mortgage for \$500 (M.B. H, p.155). The deed reads: "...all that certain house and lot...in trust for the use and purpose...of Catherine Gaston, wife of William Gaston...of Freehld...during her natural life, free and clear from control of her husband as fully and effectually as though...[they] had never been intermarried and...after her decease, the estate to the use of Lydia Allen, John Gaston, Mary Ann Gaston, Letitia Gaston, Hannah Gaston, her children." The deed excepts out the house of Isaac Ammerman, the land in the possession of David and Daniel Laird, and a lot held by the heirs of James G. Herbert, Esq.

See also D.B. Q4, p.128, 15 May 1845, for further details of the partition of the real estate held in trust for Catherine Gaston and her heirs.

11 March 1846
D.B. T4, p.393
3/4 acre

Forman Walton, Middlesex County
to
David G. Gordon, Freehold, Monmouth County

"...All that certain tract of land and premises lately occupied as a tavern stand by said John B. Gaston, and where he now lives in the Village of Englishtown...By deed made by John Perrine, Jr., John English, and Brazillia Henderickson, Commissioners, to John B. Gaston..." \$1,500.

21 Aug. 1848
D.B. 192, p.15
3/4 acre

David G. Gordon and Wife
to
William R. Davison (Davison)

"...Tavern House and lot of land in Englishtown, Manalopen Township..." \$450.

3 April 1851
D.B. 192, p.20
3/4 acre

William R. Davison, Monroe Township, Middlesex County
to
Thomas Huffman, Same Place

"...Tavern hous and lott of land being and lying in Englishtown where said Throgmorton Clayton (k)now lives..." Beginning at a stake in the middle of Water Street to a corner of lot of William R. Davison (purchased of Suydam). \$1,850.

4 April 1853
D.B. 192, p.22
3/4 acre

Thomas Huffman and Elizabeth h/w, Monroe Township, Middlesex County
to
Jacob McElvain (McIlvaine), Pinolopin, Monmouth County

"...All the hereinafter desribed Tavern House and lot of land...in Englishtown. Beginning at a stake in the middle of Water Street..." \$2,000

McIlvaine purchased the adjoining 1/8 acre lot on 23 Nov. 1853 from Daniel Stephens and h/w (D.B. 192, p.24) for \$50. The description on this deed reads: "Piece of land in Englishtown on the north side of the road leading from Jacob McIlvaine's Tavern to Joseph Rue's Tanyard,

Catherine Gaston was related to the Englishes and Perrines through her mother Ann Perrine Johnson, who was Hannah Perrine's sister. (See Perrine genealogy).

1 Nov. 1844

D.B. N4, p.242

John Perrine, Jr., Trustee
to

Lydia Allen, John Gaston, Mary Ann Suydam, Letitia Thompson, Hannah Conover--heirs of Catherine Gaston

Catherine Gaston and her children ran the tavern until her death in 1843, when it passed to her heirs through this deed. References are made to the earlier deed of 10 July 1830 between Dr. James English and John Perrine, Jr., which placed the .62 acre property in trust for Catherine Gaston and her heirs. The property reference is: "Standing at a fork of two roads, one leading from Englishtown to Middletown Point and the other to Matchaponix."

24 May 1845

M.B. N, p.269

John B. Gaston, Et al,
to

John Perrine, Jr., John English, and B. Henderickson, Commissioners (Mortgage Deed)

Because the court determined that the property of the late Catherine Gaston could not be partitioned equitably among her heirs, the court ordered its sale at public auction with notices to be placed in the Monmouth Democrat and Farmers and Working Man's Advocate prior to the sale. The deed states:

Lot 1: "being lately occupied as a Tavern Stand by Catherine Gaston..." was sold to John B. Gaston for \$1250.

Lot 2: "land adjoining Lot No. 1 at the South West corner of Lot No. 1..." was sold to Jacob Suydam for \$199.50.

John B. Gaston purchased the property through a mortgage from Perrine, English, and Henderickson. Gaston sold the property two days later to Forman Walton, said to be Gaston's father-in-law, thus settling his mother's estate.

26 May 1845

D.B. R4, p.21
3/4 acre

John B. Gaston and Wife
to

Forman Walton, So. Amboy, Middlesex County

"...Tavern stand of John B. Gaston...Beginning at a stake in the middle of Water Street [Formerly "the Road to Matchaponix"]..."

adjoining lands of Jacob McIlvaine's Tavern lot, a part of which formerly belonged to said Tavern lot."

McIlvaine also purchased an 8 acre lot on the north side of the road from Englishtown to Jamesburg (D.B. 192, p.26, Benj. Dey, Esq., to Jacob McIlvaine, 1855) which were lands Dey bought of Daniel H. Laird, Administrator of Rebecca Laird, deceased.

20 June 1868

D.B. 205, p.396
3/4 acre
1/8 acre

Margaret McElvaine and Others
to
John J. Perrine, Middlesex County

Margaret McElvaine, widow of Jacob McElvaine, John McElvaine and Mary h/w, Homes McElvaine, Benjamin D. and Elinor [McElvaine] Reid, heirs-at-law of Jacob McElvaine, sold for \$3,300, two tracts of land in the Village of Englishtown, Manalapan Township, Monmouth County:

Lot 1: Tavern lot. Reference to deed from Thomas Hoffman (Huffman), 4 April 1853 (D.B. 192, p.22), 3/4 acre.

Lot 2: adjoining lot, "Beginning at the north west corner of Jacob McElvaine's tavern lot..." Reference to deed from Daniel Stephens to Jacob McElvaine (D.B. 192, p.24), 1/8 acre.

On the 1873 Beers Atlas of Monmouth County, plate 115 (at MCHA), the building is called "J. J. Perrine's Union Hotel."

1 March 1879

D.B. 319, p.366
3/4 acre
1/8 acre

John J. Perrine and wife, Monroe, Middlesex County
to
Margaret Fleming, Freehold

Margaret Fleming, wife of innkeeper Richard Fleming, purchased the two tracts for \$5,000. Deed description and references are identical to above.

John J. Perrine took back a mortgage for \$1,000 (M.B. E4, p.585). Richard Fleming died in 1883 (File 14137). Margaret continued to run the hotel with son, Craig. The 1889 Wolverton Atlas of Monmouth County, plate 29, shows it as "M. Fleming Hotel."

19 May 1893

M.B. 168, p.104
3/4 acre
1/8 acre

Margaret Fleming, Widow
to
Craig Fleming

Mortgage deed from Margaret Fleming to her son, Craig C. Fleming, transferring the property to him for the final sum of \$1,600 with the stipulation that she could pay him back \$800 in a year to cancel if she so desired. He was to insure the property and assign the policy to her as collateral. The mortgage was cancelled 29 October 1900. Same deed references as above.

21 June 1900

D.B. 654, p.173,
p.176
3/4 acre
1/8 acre

Mary T. Rowland and Charles h/h, and Annie E. Wines and Stephen h/h, heirs at law of Margaret C. Fleming, deceased
to
Craig C. Fleming, Borough of Englishtown

A deed to clear the title executed by other heirs of Margaret Fleming to Craig C. Fleming, \$1. The deed quoted the earlier Jacob McElvaine deeds of 4 April 1853 and 23 Nov. 1853 (D.B. 192, p.22, p.24), as shown above for "two tracts of land in the Village of Englishtown," etc.

On the 1909 and 1921 Sanborn Maps of Englishtown (Princeton Univ. Library, Map Div.), the building is called the "Village House."

On 17 Oct. 1900, Craig C. Fleming mortgaged the 3/4 acre tavern lot and the 1/8 acre adjoining lot to Charles F. McDonald, \$800. Debt cancelled 8 June 1923 (M.B. 252, p.485).

3 Dec. 1968

D.B. 3670,
p.381
3/4 acre
1/8 acre

G. Hazel Applegate, Sole Heir of the Estate of
Craig C. Fleming, dec'd.
to
Kenneth P. Applegate, Jr., Trustee

G. Hazel Fleming Applegate was the only surviving child of Craig C. Fleming (d. 1923, Will M5808) and his wife, Maggie (d.1914, Will M2890; see Estate Index 1110, Surrogate's Office, Monmouth County Hall of Records). Hazel and her husband, James Applegate, son of Dr. Asher Applegate, long-time mayor of Englishtown, ran the business as a hotel and restaurant when she inherited it upon the death of her father. The name of the property was changed to the "Village Inn" ca. 1930.

In this deed G. Hazel Fleming Applegate transferred the property to her nephew for \$1. She had no children. Deed references to abovedeed of 21 June 1900 from the heirs of

Margaret Fleming, dec'd. to Craig Fleming. Deed descriptions quote D.B. 192, pp.22, 24, as above.

See also Affidavit of Consideration: D.B. 3670, p.383; reference to deed between G. Hazel Applegate, Englishtown, to Kenneth P. Applegate, Jr.

16 May 1973

D.B. 3836,
p.328

Kenneth P. Applegate, Jr., and Janet h/w and Asher T.
Applegate and Marjorie h/w, Executors of G. Hazel Applegate
to
The Borough of Englishtown

Ref. to a deed of 2 Dec. 1969. "Lot 23, Block A of
Tax Map...", \$65,000.

19 April 1978

D.B. 4092,
p.461

Borough of Englishtown
to
Battleground Historical Society

Ref. to above deed of 16 May 1973 D.B. 3836 (not "3681" as stated on deed), p.328... "Beginning at a point in the middle of Water Street...to a point in the middle of North Main Street...(mentions Old Bridge Rd. also known as Main Street), \$70,000.

B

VILLAGE INN
Englishtown, NJ

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At the Monmouth County Hall of Records are deeds, mortgages, inventories, and Orphan's Court proceedings. Deeds are also available on microfilm at the New Jersey State Library as are the Colonial Conveyances, the earliest land records. Also at the New Jersey State Library are Revolutionary War service records, tax ratable records for Monmouth County from 1779 to about 1820, extensive genealogical material, county histories, and published church records. Old newspapers, particularly the Monmouth Democrat and Farmer's and Workingman's Advocate, are on microfilm at both places.

The Monmouth County Historical Association's library houses a fine collection, generally of a local nature, with emphasis on genealogy. Here are found Monmouth County legal dockets, nineteenth century tavern license applications, account books, Battle of Monmouth published histories, and church records, particularly those of Old Tennant Church. Some maps and atlases are also available. Of special interest to this study, found in their collection of local account books, is Moses Davis, "His Tavern Accounts 1766-67" (MS, Shelf F, incorrectly catalogued under W. Freehold).

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Recording by the Historic American Buildings Survey

Appendix a

It was under these standards, and under the pervading historical setting, that a team surveyed the Village Inn in 1936 and produced the documents accepted into the Library of Congress under designation NJ-65. "Secretary of Interior Harold J. Ickes in accepting the documents, wrote that the Englishtown Inn was selected as possessing exceptional historic or architectural interest and as being worthy for the benefit of future generations."² Twelve sheets of drawings, one photograph and two data sheets delineate the structure as found in 1936 with notation as to supposed layout and materials.

Appendix a

Part of this study has been to validate documented material and make suggestions for updating or correcting that data where possible. The following comments are submitted to correct the HABS catalogue on the Village Inn:

Data Sheet, page 1

Owner: The current (1982) owner is the Battleground Historical Society

Date of Erection & Builder:

Stage 1	Ca.1726-1732	
Stage 2	Ca.1750-1760	(John Davis)
Stage 2A	Ca.1777-1790	
Stage 3	Ca.1815-1822	
Stage 4	Ca.1900	
Stage 4A	Ca.1928-1930	

Present Condition (1982): Poor

Materials & Construction:

Exterior wall - shingle over Ca.1900
clapboard siding
Roof - slate over Ca.1900 wood shingles

Historical Data:

The historic significance is best summarized by the perspective of Sam Steel Smith in his book, The Battle of Monmouth:

"Englishtown was a small village of perhaps 25 to 30 people,...The buildings in the town, as shown on a map of that time, consisted of four dwellings, two meetinghouses, the village inn (although not named as such) and Sharp's Mill...General Lee made his headquarters in Englishtown before and after

the battle, as did General Washington after the battle. It is not known what building each occupied. The inn was in existence at the time and, having suitable quarters, probably was occupied by one of the two high ranking officers...³

Data Sheet Page 2

Historical Data:

There is no evidence that the Inn was the birthplace of General David Forman. He was born near Englishtown.⁴

Drawings

General:

Building delineation on these sheets is the Stage 3, ca.1815-1822 structure.

Sheet 1

Front Elevation

Note on roof of bar wing, "This addition was built in 1863," was not confirmed. However, the addition was not made to the Village Inn until after 1900.

The cross gable, labeled "recent gable," was added at the same time as the bar wing, after 1900.

Roofing note, "Slate was original shingles" is not correct. Slate is over ca.1900 wood shingles.

"Original" label in front door and east windows is misleading. The door locations and frame, and the windows are part of Stage 3 construction, ca.1815-1822, retrimmed after 1923.

Sheet 2

East End Elev.

Note, "Shingle over original siding" is misleading. Siding is a ca.1900 clapboard replacement of ca.1815-1822 siding.

Sheet 3

Rear Elev.

Roofing note, "Slate over original shingles" is not correct. Slate is over ca.1900 wood shingles.

Note, "Shingles over original weatherboards" is misleading. Siding is a ca.1900 clapboard replacement of ca.1815-1822 siding.

Sheet 4

First Floor Plan

Room 1 note, "Original bar removed" is not confirmed but is considered appropriate for the ca.1815-1822 bar.

Room 2 note that rooms 2 and 3 are original: original there refers to ca.1815-1822.

Room 3 note that, "The Early Elections of Two hundred years ago were held in this room." is incorrect. The room was not constructed until ca.1815-1822.

Room 3 note, "This window originally a door," is not confirmed.

Room 4 note regarding Washington, Lord Sterling and General Lee cannot be confirmed.

Sheet 5

Second Floor Plan

Note in hallway that, "These bedrooms are original..." is not correct. That layout most probably dates from ca.1815-1822

Sheet 6
Attic & Roof Plan

Roofing note, "Slate roof over original wood shingles" is not correct. Slate is over ca.1900 wood shingles.

Sheet 10
Detail of Doors

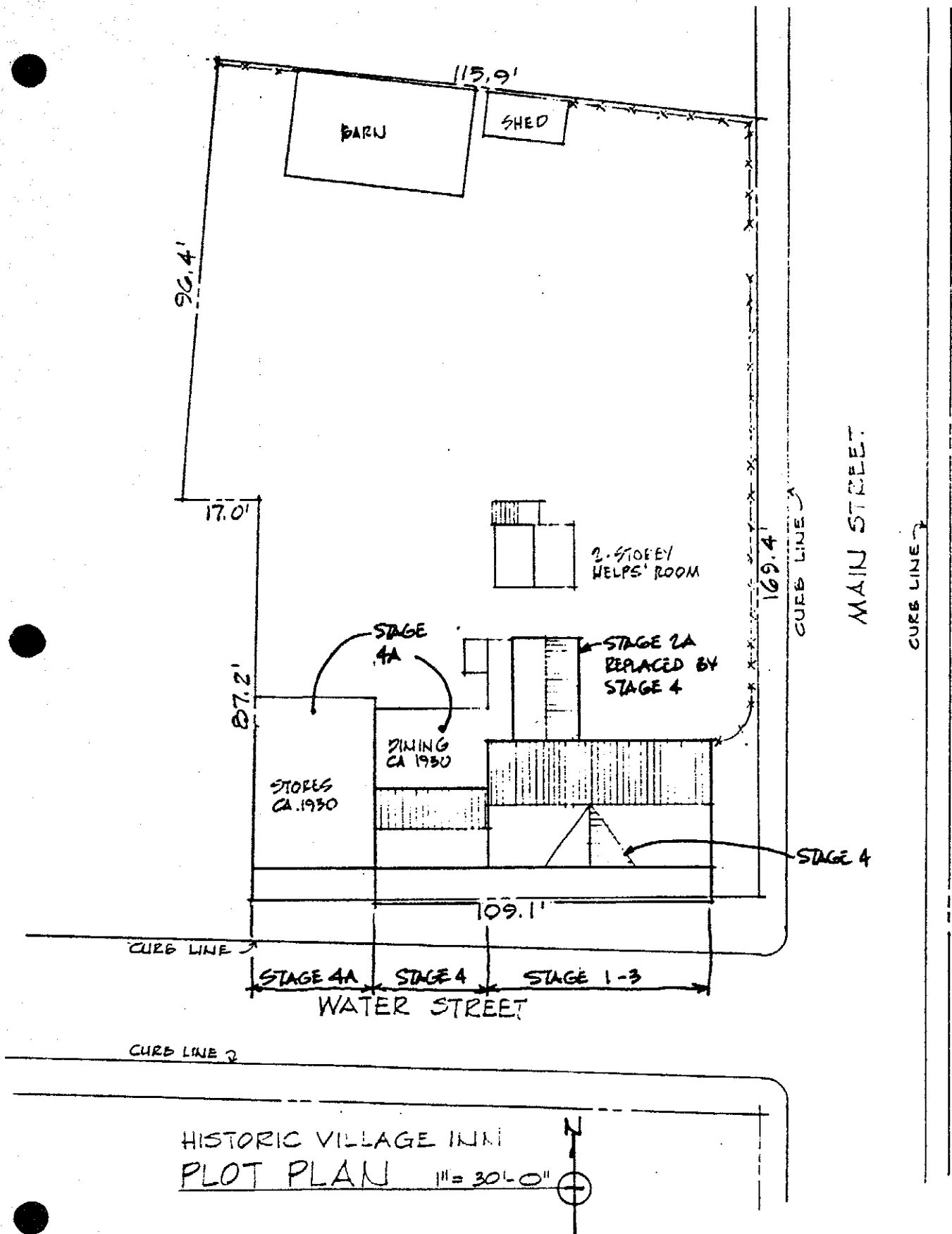
Front Door frame is labelled "original;" framing for door is ca.1815-1822.

Sheet 11

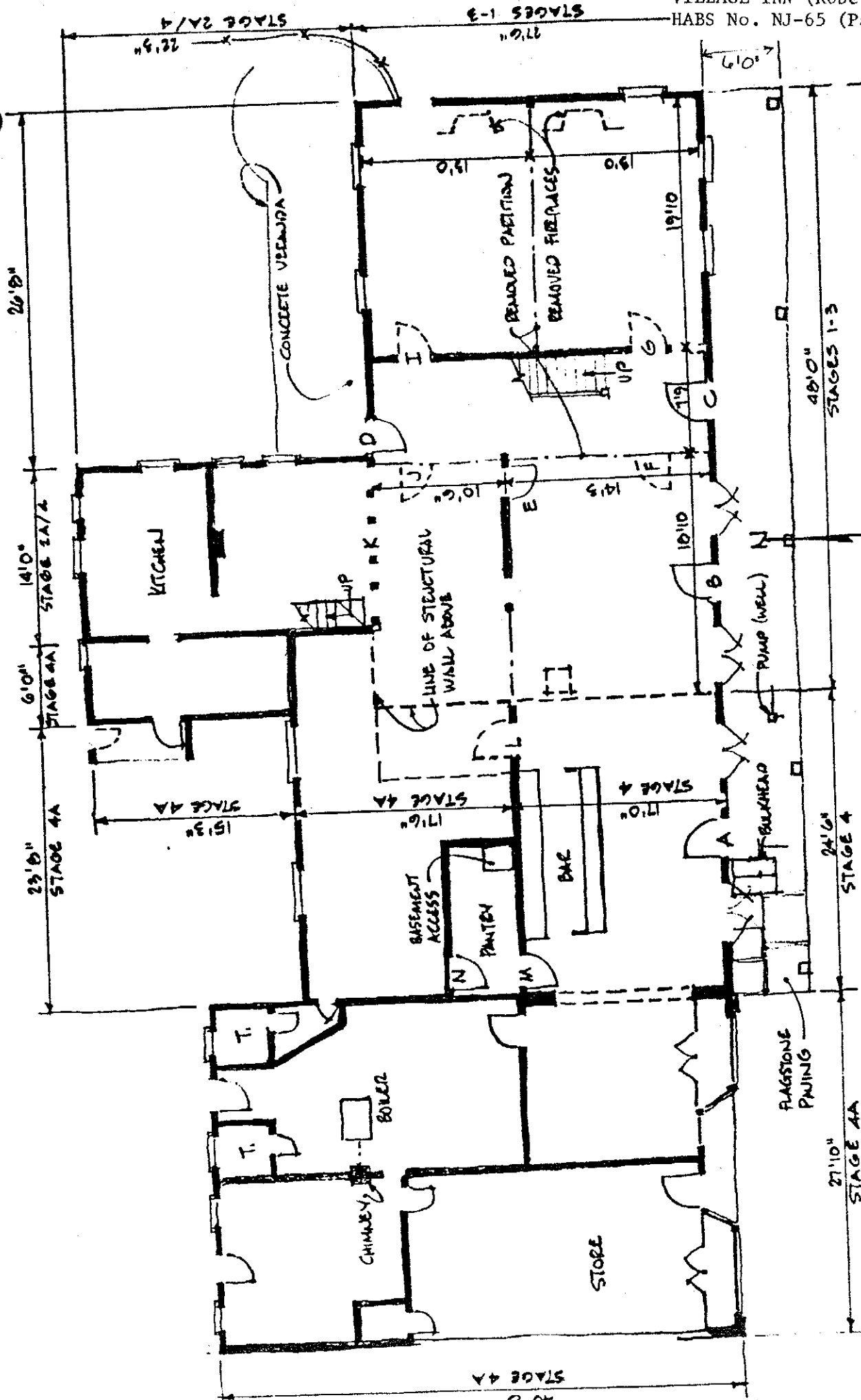
Window and trim details labelled "original" are ca.1815-1822.

Sheet 12

"Original" stairs are part of the Stage 3 construction, ca.1815-1822.



Historic Village Inn Plot Plan



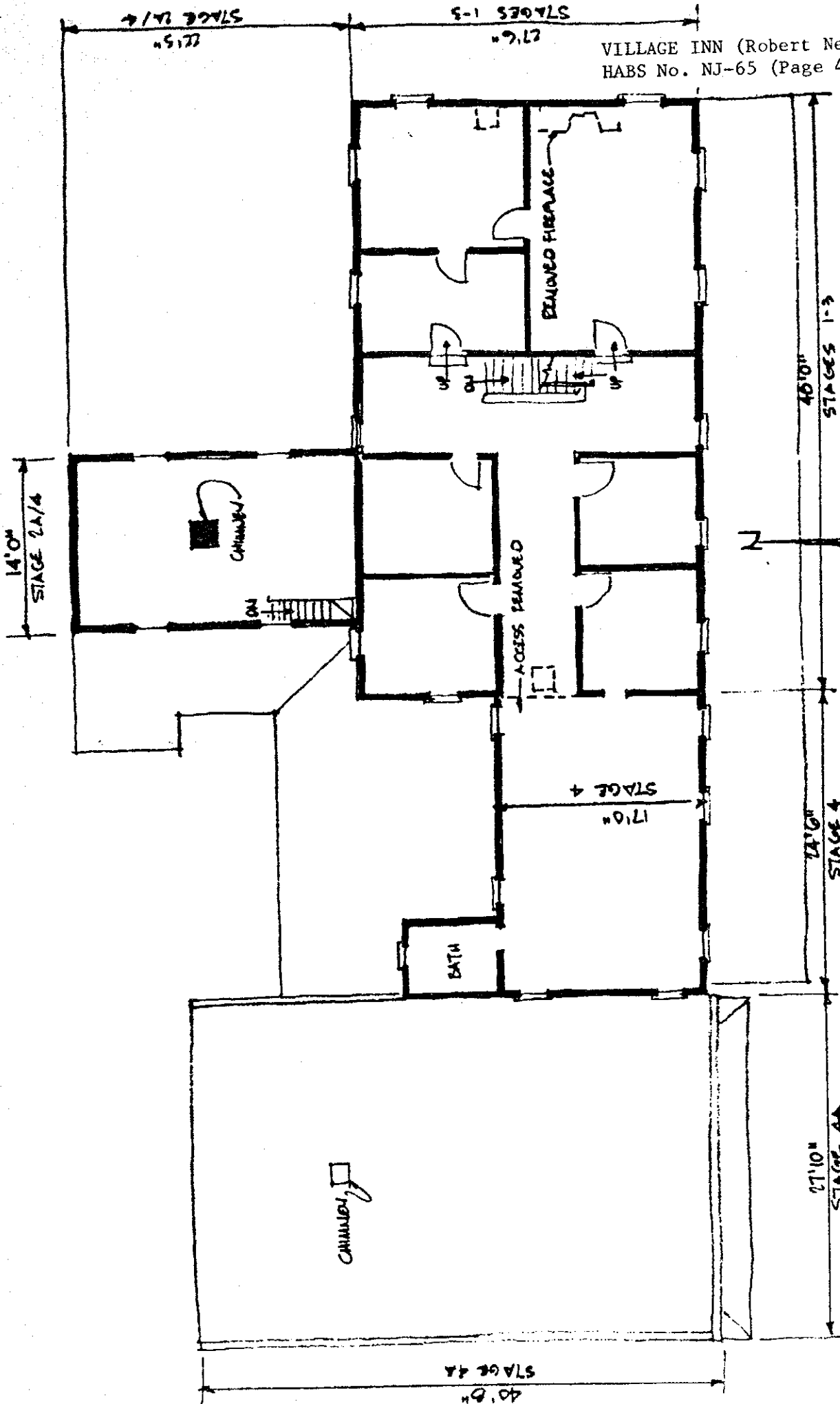
A FIRST FLOOR PLAN

HISTORIC VILLAGE INN
ENGLISH TOWN, NEW JERSEY

BOOTH DESIGNS AIA ARCHITECT

STAGL 4A
EA 1939/1960

PLATE 100 5-10



(B) SECOND FLOOR PLAN

STAGE 4A
CA 1959/1960

HISTORIC VILLAGE INN
ENGLISHTOWN, NEW JERSEY

PLATE ADD. B-10

ROB L. DESIMUS AIA ARCHT